This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously presented) A triterpene saponin prepared by a process for the isolation of triterpene saponins belonging to the family *Myrsinaceae*, wherein said saponin is isolated from the plant species *Maesa balansae*, said process comprising

(a) extracting dried plant parts with an alcohol and concentrating the extract,

(b) removing the apolar fraction from the extract by liquid-liquid extraction with an apolar solvent, and

(c) further purifying the saponin in the alcohol extract by liquid -liquid extraction, filtration and chromatography, wherein the chromatography comprises reversed-phase liquid chromatography with gradient eluent system using

A : 0.5 % ammonium acetate in water

B : methanol

C : acetonitrile

wherein at t = 0, (A:B:C) = (60:20:20) and at t = end, (A:B:C) = (0:50:50), and wherein said saponin has the following characteristics:

Compound 1 : MW = 1532, λ_{max} = 228.6 nm, λ_{max2} = 273.3 nm ;

Compound 2 : MW = 1510, λ_{max} = 223.9 nm, λ_{max2} = 274.5 nm ;

Compound 3 : MW = 1532, λ_{max} = 279.2 nm, λ_{max2} = 223.9 nm ;

Compound 4 : MW = 1510, λ_{max} = 280.4 nm, λ_{max2} = 222.7 nm ;

Compound 5 : MW = 1574, λ_{max} = 276.8 nm, λ_{max2} = 225.0 nm ; or

Compound 6 : MW = 1552, λ_{max} = 279.2 nm, λ_{max2} = 223.9 nm.

16. (Previously presented) The triterpene saponin according to claim 15 wherein the alcohol is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, or butanol, each optionally admixed with water.

17. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 15 wherein the saponins of the alcohol extract are further purified by

~~(c6)~~ extracting the aqueous fraction with butanol saturated with water,

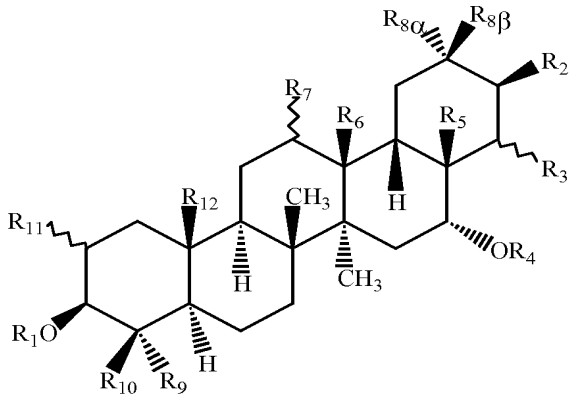
~~(c7)~~ evaporating the organic layer to dryness,

~~(c8)~~ washing the residue in a ketone, and

~~(c9)~~ filtering off the crude saponin mixture.

18. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and as an active ingredient a triterpene saponin according to claim 15.

19. (Previously presented) A method of alleviating clinical manifestations of, and treating disorders known as leishmaniases attributable to infection by protozoan parasites of the genus *Leishmania* in both humans and animals, comprising administering to an infected host a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula:



a stereoisomeric form thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof, wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, -(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl, -(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl substituted with phenyl, a monosaccharide group or an oligosaccharide group ;

R_2 is hydrogen, hydroxy, -O(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl, -O(C=O)C_6H_5, or -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_3 is hydrogen, hydroxy, -O(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl, -O(C=O)C_6H_5, or -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_4 is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, -(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl, -(C=O)C_6H_5, or -(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_5 is CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, CH_2O-C(=O)CH_3, CHO, or COOH ; or

R_5 and R_2 form a divalent radical of formula -C(=O)-O- ;

R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen; or taken together they form a bond; or R_5 and R_6 form a divalent radical of formula

-CH_2-O- (a),

-$CH(OR_{13})$-O- (b), or

-C(=O)-O- (c),

wherein R_{13} is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl or -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl ;

$R_{8\alpha}$ and $R_{8\beta}$ each independently represent CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, CH_2O-C(=O) C_{1-5}alkyl, CHO, $CH(OCH_3)_2$, CH=NOH, or COOH ; or $R_{8\beta}$ and R_3 form a divalent radical of formula -C(=O)-O- ; or $R_{8\beta}$ and R_5 form a divalent radical of formula -CH_2O-CHOH- ;

R_9 is CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, CH_2O-C(=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, CHO, or COOH ;

R_{10} is CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, CH_2O-C(=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, CHO, or COOH ;

R_{11} is hydrogen, hydroxy or O-C(=O)C_{1-5}alkyl ; or R_{10} and R_{11} form a divalent radical of formula -CH_2O- ; and

R_{12} is CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, CH_2O-C(=O)CH_3, CHO, CH=NOH, or COOH.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19 wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, or an oligosaccharide group ;

R_3 is hydrogen, hydroxy, -O(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl, or -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_4 is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, or -(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl ;

R_5 is CH_2OH, CH_2O-C(=O)CH_3, or CHO ; and

R_6 and R_7 taken together form a bond; or

R_5 and R_6 form a divalent radical of formula

-CH_2-O- (a),

-$CH(OR_{13})$-O- (b), or

-C(=O)-O- (c),

wherein R_{13} is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl or -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, ; and

R_7 is hydrogen ;

$R_{8\beta}$ represents CH_3, CH_2OH, CHO, $CH(OCH_3)_2$, CH=NOH, or COOH ;

$R_{8\alpha}$ represents CH_3 ;

$R_{8\beta}$ and R_3 form a divalent radical of formula -C(=O)-O- ; or

$R_{8\beta}$ and R_5 form a divalent radical of formula $-CH_2O-CHOH-$;

R_{10} is CH_3, CH_2OH ;

R_{11} is hydrogen, hydroxy or $O-C(=O)C_{1-5}$alkyl ; or

R_{10} and R_{11} form a divalent radical of formula $-CH_2O-$; and

R_{12} is CH_3, CH_2OH, $CH_2O-C(=O)CH_3$, CHO, or CH=NOH.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20 wherein

R_1 is hydrogen or an oligosaccharide group ;

R_2 is hydrogen, hydroxy, $-O(C=O)C_{1-5}$alkyl, $-O(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl, $-O(C=O)C_6H_5$, or $-O(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_3 is hydrogen, hydroxy, $-O(C=O)C_{1-5}$alkyl, $-O(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl, or $-O(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_4 is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, $-(C=O)C_{1-5}$alkyl, $-(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl, or $-(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_5 is CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, $CH_2O-C(=O)CH_3$, CHO, or COOH ; and

R_6 and R_7 taken together form a bond; or

R_5 and R_6 form a divalent radical of formula

$-CH_2-O-$ (a),

$-CH(OR_{13})-O-$ (b), or

-C(=O)-O- (c),

wherein R_{13} is hydrogen ; and

R_7 is hydrogen ;

$R_{8\alpha}$ and $R_{8\beta}$ both represent CH_3 ;

R_9 is CH_3 ;

R_{10} is CH_3 ;

R_{11} is hydrogen ; and

R_{12} is CH_3.